The Southern PATRIOT
Vol. 19, No. 5
May, 1961
Published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.

Freedom's Price

Alabama Tragedy

(By Staff Correspondent)

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Four Negro ministers in Alabama face economic ruin because of their uncompromising stand for civil rights.

They are the Rev. Ralph Abernathy and the Rev. S. S. Seay of Montgomery, the Rev. J. E. Lowery of Mobile, and the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth of Birmingham.

All are defendants, along with the *New York Times*, in five libel suits filed by Montgomery and Alabama officials. The total amount asked in the five suits is $3 million, and in the two cases already tried juries have awarded the full amount asked—$500,000 each.

Automobiles and property owned by the ministers have already been seized in an effort to collect the judgments.

The suits are in regard to an ad which appeared in the New York Times on March 29, 1960, asking support for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was then under indictment for perjury in Alabama. Dr. King had been accused of making false statements on state income tax returns, but a jury later found him not guilty.

The ad in the *Times* also asked support for the Southern students protesting against segregation and was critical of police actions against Dr. King and the Negro students.

The names of Mr. Abernathy, Mr. Seay, Mr. Lowery, and Mr. Shuttlesworth appeared as endorsers of the ad, along with many other prominent citizens throughout America.

Alabama officials claimed the ad held them up to ridicule and shame, although it did not mention any of their names. Suits were filed by the mayor of Montgomery, the police commissioner, a third city commissioner, the former police commissioner and Alabama Governor John Patterson.

Many persons see the suits as reprisals against the ministers because of their civil rights leadership and as an effort to keep them on the defensive. It is also believed that the suits are designed to discourage further appeals from the South to the national conscience, such as the New York Times ad represented.

The four ministers have filed a counter-suit in Federal court, charging the city commissioners and governor with conspiracy to

(Continued on Page 3)

Braden Enters Prison; Clemency Asked

ATLANTA, Ga.—Carl Braden and Frank Wilkinson surrendered to the U. S. Marshal here May 1 to begin serving one-year prison terms for contempt of the House Un-American Activities Committee. It was not learned at once where they would be sent to serve their sentences.

Almost immediately, it was announced that 17 white and Negro Southern leaders have initiated a petition to President John F. Kennedy asking him to free Braden, an SCEF field secretary, by executive clemency.

The petition quotes Justice Hugo Black who said in his classic dissent to the decision upholding Braden's conviction that he was apparently called before the House Committee because of his activities in behalf of integration.

The appeal to Kennedy expresses the fear that "the entire cause of integration may suffer as a result of the precedent set in this case" and says that the jailing of Carl Braden may "serve as a springboard to a new wave of repression in the Southern states."

The 17 initiators of the petition are: The Rev. William B. Abbot, Norfolk, Va.; the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Montgomery, Ala.; Mrs. Sarah Patton Boyle, Charlottesville, Va.; Carl P. Brannin, Dallas, Tex.; James McBride Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C.

The Rev. W. W. Finlator, Raleigh, N. C.; the

(Continued on Page 4)

Mississippi Report

Jackson Reaches Turning Point

(By Staff Correspondent)

JACKSON, Miss.—People here are filled with hope and fear.

There is hope among the Negroes, resulting from the fact that courageous young students have stepped out to take their stand for full civil rights.

There is fear among many white people — not so much of the Negroes, but of themselves, of each other, of change and the future, and in some cases of their own consciences.

For Jackson, one of the Deep South's strongholds of segregation, reached a turning point this spring. When the Southwide student protest movement finally reached Mississippi and nine Negro students from Tougaloo Southern Christian College—dignified, serious and nonviolent—walked into the Jackson library and sat down to read, the civil rights movement in this state went on the offensive.

The results made headlines all over the world, as the students were arrested and two dozen policemen used clubs and police dogs to break up a peaceful gathering of 100 Negroes who had come to observe the students' trial.

The *Jackson State Times* reported that the dogs came from a kennel in Springfield, Mo., operated by a Harry Nawroth, a former Nazi who trained dogs to guard Hitler's airport.

Eyewitnesses say that none of the reports of the police attack were exaggerated and if anything it was worse. Medgar Evers, NAACP state secretary who was himself struck with a pistol, said:

"It was indescribable. Men and women were beaten with clubs and pistols. The Negroes had done nothing to provoke the attack. They were not demonstrating. They had come to see the trial and were standing peacefully on the street because there was no room in the courtroom. They obeyed police orders to move to the other side of the street. The attack came when they applauded the students as they entered the court building."

The effect in the Negro community was to solidify support behind the students. Older people who had previously said the students were "moving too fast" suddenly said "it should have been done 10 years ago." On a rainy night, over 1500 came out to a protest meeting. The Rev. John Mangram, chaplain at Tougaloo College, explained:

"It was their way of saying, 'All my life I have resented the kind of treatment I have received. Now that someone has been brave enough to step out, I will identify with them.'"

State NAACP President Aaron Henry said that all over the state Negro college students were

(Continued on Page 4)

MISSISSIPPI PIONEERS, the Tougaloo College students who brought the sit-in movement to Jackson: (standing, from left) Albert Lassiter, Mary Allen, Joseph Jackson, who is president of the College NAACP, Evelyn Pierce, the Rev. John Mangram who is adviser to the group, and Alfred Cook; (seated, from left) James Bradley, Joan Collins, Meredith Anding, Ethel Sawyer, Geraldine Edwards, and Janice Jackson. Most grew up in Mississippi or Memphis.

White Students Write

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—After property of four Negro ministers was seized for judgment in the libel suits against them, 14 students at all-white Huntingdon College here sent them the following letter:

"We would like to indicate our concern and support for you during this time of difficulty. We are disappointed that the officials chose to resort to such petty harassment, which can only turn decent people against the use of such tactics.

"We would like to stand up for decency and express the hope that reason will soon return.

"In relation to the $500,000 judgment, the $1 million bond, and the seizure of your automobile, any financial assistance we might be able to give will be nominal, but we wish to express our moral support with this small sum. Use it as you see fit.

"P.S.: Many are for you and contributed but were unable to sign the note. God bless you all."

Enclosed in the letter was $22. Practically all the students who signed were Alabamians.

Southern Women In Action

(By Special Correspondent)

ATLANTA, Ga.—The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom recently held its Southern conference at the Atlanta University Center. In spite of the cold, damp weather and muddy campus grounds, 100 members and friends of WILPF gathered in the friendly, open atmosphere of this Negro academic center.

From 20 cities in the South came Negro and white women to discuss together the issues of peace, civil rights, and civil liberties.

The opening address was delivered by Miss Ella Baker, National Consultant for the YWCA. She told the women that there is an urgent need for "positive action to solve the question of race in our time."

Workshops were held on desegregation of schools, desegregation of public facilities, work and building of WILPF in the South, and the WIL legislative program on civil rights and peace.

Since Atlanta is expected to be the next major city in the South to desegregate its schools, this question was particularly important to members of the Atlanta branch. They wanted to find ways of helping desegregation to take place in an orderly, effective manner.

Understanding the problems of both races in this forward step, WILPF hopes to be able to sponsor student get-togethers on the basis of scholastic interest or other common concern, encourage Negro parents to apply for

(Continued on Page 3)

A WORKSHOP SESSION AT WIL CONFERENCE Photo by Perry

Review of the Month

In an historic move, the U. S. Justice Department stepped into the Prince Edward County, Va., school case, asking the Federal courts to force reopening of schools there.

The school closing issue also came to a head in St. Helena Parish, La., (55 per cent Negro but with a 93 per cent white voting population), which voted overwhelmingly to abandon public education to avoid integration. Constitutionality of the school closing has been challenged.

Pensacola, Fla., agreed to comply with a court order for gradual school integration, and Chattanooga, Tenn., announced a grade-a-year plan starting next fall. Negroes began applying for transfers to white schools in Atlanta, which begins integration in the 11th and 12th grades in September.

The Justice Department stepped up activity to enforce voting rights, filing new suits in Dallas County, Ala., and East Carroll Parish, La., ordering investigations in three Mississippi counties, and pushing suits already pending.

The U. S. Supreme Court ruled in a case from Wilmington, Del., that a privately-owned restaurant in a public building cannot bar Negroes. And in Louisville, Ky., where sit-in arrests reached a national high of 685, the integration campaign brought spectacular results with over 90 downtown establishments dropping race barriers.

The Southern Patriot

The Southern Patriot is published monthly except July and August by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., dedicated to ending segregation and discrimination based on race, creed, color, or national origin. Editorial offices, 4403 Virginia Ave., Louisville 11, Ky.; business offices, Suite 404, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans 12, La.; office of publication, 150 Tenth Ave. North, Nashville, Tenn. Twenty-five cents a copy, $2 a year. Entered as second-class mail matter, Nashville, Tennessee.

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.
822 Perdido Street, New Orleans 12, Louisiana

President
AUBREY W. WILLIAMS

Vice-Presidents
DR. HERMAN H. LONG
BISHOP EDGAR A. LOVE
MODJESKA M. SIMKINS

Treasurer
BENJAMIN E. SMITH

Secretary
DR. JAMES L. HUPP

Executive Director
JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI

Field Secretaries & Editors
ANNE BRADEN
CARL BRADEN

VOL. 19, No. 5 — May, 1961

News in Brief

Bowing to a Federal court order, Miami, Fla., desegregated its municipal swimming pools. In New Orleans, a Federal judge ordered an end to bus segregation in Baton Rouge, La.

* * * *

In Memphis, Tenn., Blair T. Hunt, a retired educator, became the first Negro to be elected to the Shelby County Board of Education in modern times.

* * * *

In Decatur, Ga., a County judge placed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on six months probation in the traffic case which figured in last fall's presidential election. Dr. King had originally been given a year's suspended sentence for driving without a Georgia license. The State Court of Appeals ruled this sentence was excessive and sent the case back to the lower court.

* * * *

In Northern Virginia, integration was increasing as school officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Falls Church voluntarily assigned 183 Negro pupils to previously white schools for next year. Meantime, the Arlington Education Association, made up of white teachers, voted 519-463 to merge with the corresponding Negro group.

* * * *

In Atlanta, the Southern Regional Council announced that Leslie Dunbar, previously its research director, is succeeding Harold Fleming as executive director of the interracial organization. Fleming has resigned to become executive vice-president of the Potomac Institute in Washington.

* * * *

In Washington, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference announced the appointment of the Rev. Walter Fauntroy as its regional representative. Mr. Fauntroy is minister of the New Bethel Baptist Church in the nation's capital.

* * * *

In Wilmington, Del., three white men were convicted on several charges growing out of the destruction of a Negro family's home in all-white suburban Collins Park in 1959. The home was that of the George Rayfields, who were eventually forced to abandon the home.

* * * *

In Tallahassee, Fla., William Larkins, student body president at all-Negro Florida A & M University, announced that he will urge his student legislature to apply for admission to Southern Universities Student Government Association. The association is now composed of 30 all-white student bodies and three integrated student bodies which are predominantly white.

* * * *

Louisville, Ky., had two firsts: The Rev. H. H. Greene became the first Negro to head the Louisville Ministerial Association; and Woodford Porter became the first Negro to be named president of the city School Board.

Ebony Museum

CHICAGO — An "Ebony Museum" has been started here to preserve and make available to the public items related to the history of the Negro. Patriot readers, especially those in the South, have been asked to cooperate by sending "mementoes, relics, books or documents relating to the history of the Negro in the United States." The address: Ebony Museum of Negro History and Art, 3806 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 53, Ill.

Book Notes

The School Story In Virginia

VIRGINIA'S MASSIVE RESISTANCE, by BENJAMIN MUSE. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind., $3.95

Benjamin Muse, affiliated with the Southern Regional Council, has written a comprehensive book on school segregation in Virginia.

He traces the story beginning in 1954: the initial acceptance of the Supreme Court decision by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the resistance initiated by Senator Harry F. Byrd, the closing of schools in Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Warren County, the upsurge of organization by private citizens to open them again, the influence of Virginia's economic power structure which wanted public schools.

Finally, it will be recalled, the courts ruled against the school closing and public opinion pressed in from all sides on Gov. Almond, who had vowed he'd never let desegregation come. Muse notes that when Almond reversed himself and called the state back to sanity, "he displayed a combination of courage, eloquence and skill, which was admirable."

"Generally speaking," writes Muse, "the politicans of the South have failed dismally to meet their responsibilities of leadership in this crisis. Their activities on the whole have tended to unprepare, rather than to prepare, the public for the inevitable social change. No small part of the blame for the confusion and hysteria and the public disorder must be laid at their door.

"But the men of conscience in Southern politics, who are far more numerous than many suppose, face a real and painful problem. It is much more difficult in most of the South than it was intrinsically in Virginia or in Arkansas.

Benjamin Muse

"Southern politicans have suffered great inner travail during the past six years. I have talked with many of them, with some intimately. 'I try to lead my people,' one anguished legislator said to me. 'I try to lead my people, but how can I lead them if I get too far out in front?' Some Southern leaders have gotten far out in front and survived. Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida and William B. Hartsfield, Atlanta's indomitable Mayor, are heartening examples."

A large part of the South's salvation lies in the recruitment of more courageous men of their kind.

—DOROTHY JOHNSON

Action Notes

Integration started at theaters in Nashville, Tenn., and Lexington, Ky. Both cities have been the scene of intensive stand-in campaigns in recent months.

* * * *

In Charlotte, N. C. — The theater stand-in campaign was bolstered by students from 11 states attending the recent meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; several visitors, including two white persons, joined the stand-ins. There were two arrests on trespass charges: Charles Sherrod of Richmond, and James Hester of Charlotte.

* * * *

In Durham, N. C., a three-week campaign of picketing and handbilling resulted in hiring of 22 Negroes in sales positions at several stores. The campaign, which is continuing, is led by the NAACP Youth Council and has white support from Duke University faculty and students.

* * * *

In Charlottesville, Va., white and Negro students from the University of Virginia are picketing a theater that refuses to admit Negroes. Before the picketing started, a petition was circulated, and over 500 white people pledged themselves not to attend the theater until it integrates.

* * * *

In Danville, Va., a lunch counter sit-in campaign, mostly by high school students, resumed after a truce period of negotiations failed.

"Why I Believe in Integration . . ."

Native Mississippian Finds 'Emancipation'

By RUBY BERKLEY

(The author of this article, an SCEF board member, works in Augusta, Ga., with the Bethlehem Center program of the Women's Division of the Methodist Church.)

Having been reared on a farm in Mississippi, where we had Negro tenants, I accepted the "mores" of the community and had the prevalent attitude that the Negro was glad to work for the white man and was satisfied with things as they were.

However, with this acceptance, it was still a matter of concern to me that those whom I knew were deprived of so many things, and had so few advantages.

The best justification I could find for this was that God must have created the Negro with less sensitivity than the white man. According to my religious teaching there had to be some logical answer, for I knew we had a just God ruling the world.

As children, we were taught to be kind to the tenants, and our parents were always ready to help whenever they saw a need, even though it might have been done in a paternalistic manner.

From childhood days it was my desire to become a missionary in some foreign country in order that I might be of service to other people. I went to Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee, for my training.

It was here that I was confronted, for the first time, with the problem of the white person's attitude toward the Negro; and also for the first time had an opportunity to meet any Negroes on a basis of equality.

Quite a bit of reading of Negro history was required, as well as books of fiction about the Negro, and also books by Negro writers. By the time I completed my work at Scarritt I now accepted the equality of races theoretically, although I was still not ready to accept it realistically. Later, when my church assigned me to work in a Negro community in Memphis, Tenn., I began to learn.

However, I must admit I was still too "steeped" in our old traditions to become completely emancipated all at once; but it came through a gradual process of re-education and of re-thinking many of my preconceived and distorted ideas regarding the Negro.

After finally becoming "converted" to the idea that the Negro is no different than any other person, I decided that the greatest service I could render would be to devote the remainder of my life to the task of trying to get this same idea across to other people, as well as trying to do my part toward helping some few Negroes gain better opportunities.

The most logical reason I can give for believing in integration is the fact that this "just God", in whom I still believe—but with a much greater vision—could not create one group of people and limit them in their capacity to develop. Surely, if we call ourselves Christian, we must desire the same thing for all people as for ourselves.

Ruby Berkley

Quotations To Remember

"We need to act our beliefs and values. The hardest part is just before you do it. You have to break through your own silence, crash your own passiveness."—Lillian Smith, writing for teenagers in Datebook Magazine.

"Each time we create a city where we can live without hate, prejudice, and discrimination, we add to the ultimate climate of the world."—The Rev. James M. Lawson, speaking at a meeting of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council.

"We adults, both white and Negro, are too deeply ingrained with Jim Crowism. But we must let change come, particularly in the schools. Young people . . . have a chance to solve these problems, if we adults don't force our prejudices on them."—The Rev. Robert P. Douglass, white Presbyterian minister in a sermon at his church in Dallas, Tex.

"They used the Ku Klux Klan and the police to intimidate my generation, but these young people today go out looking for the police."—Dr. James M. Nabrit, president of Howard University, speaking in North Carolina.

Southern Trip Spurs Students

By DAN LONG

(What do non-Southerners who believe in integration do when they encounter segregation in the South? This account tells what happened to a group of students from La Verne College in California, how they met it, and what it meant to them. They were returning from a student conference of the Church of the Brethren when these experiences occurred.)

We had just gotten on the Oklahoma Turnpike when our car sounded like somebody tried to put it in gear without putting in the clutch. We were towed into Vinita, Oklahoma. The diagnosis—a broken valve head had gone through a piston.

We went to the Vinita Hotel and asked (not literally but figuratively), "Is there room in the Inn?" They thought a moment and told us that they could house us inexpensively.

For what reason I am still not sure, I asked the hotel clerk, "One of our girls happens to be a Negro, there won't be any trouble staying here will there?" He replied that she could not stay in the hotel.

I then inquired about eating and he replied to us, "Well, we will feed the girl in the kitchen and you can eat in the front, but you can't eat together anywhere in town."

You can imagine our feelings—our car dismanteled, in the middle of a town where we were strangers. We bought groceries and prepared to "be an island of integration" at a garage in Oklahoma.

The effect began to tell in the group. Etheldra, the girl who was of a different race, could no longer hold back the springs of emotion which tore at her heart. She had already gone by herself for half an hour or so, but as we were standing together Thel quietly let out deep sobs.

All of us felt the turmoil of conflicting emotion. Later she told us that she felt sorry for those who were prejudiced. The debate that we had seen on TV Saturday night became relevant. It was no longer a matter of intellectual discussion but of human encounter.

CALIFORNIA STUDENTS, who came South, refused to accept segregation, and received an education in the process: (front, from left) Richard Stern, Sandra Kelso, Miss Peggy Zimmerman who is youth director of the Church of the Brethren at LaVerne, Calif., and Margaret Stover; (rear, from left) Etheldra Claxton, Dan Long, who is director of religious life at LaVerne College, David Hollinger, and Dick Walker. The trip was a milestone for them.

Later we called the pastor of a new Brethren Church in Bartlesville. He sent cars for us and took us to private homes for the night. We cannot say enough in gratitude for the concern and generosity shown by the Bartlesville church members.

The car ran beautifully again Thursday evening. We stopped at a Pancake house at Amarillo, Texas, for breakfast Friday morning.

The hostess approached me and said "That colored girl will have to eat in the kitchen."

I replied that we had been a group too long to break up now, to which she replied, "I'm sorry, that is the rule of the house."

I went back to the table and told the group that we would not be allowed to eat together at this place and that we'd better leave, which we did.

One of the students said, "Well, we have the problem again." Another of our group replied immediately—"No, we don't have a problem, they do."

Our delegation felt that our experience should be shared so that more persons might have an opportunity to know of the depth of feeling—sorrow, anger, thanksgiving—which made this trip a milestone in each of our lives.

It is our hope that on your campuses you may be moved to work harder than we had done in the past to make the Christian faith relevant not only to the textbook problems, but also to the real problems of the world that is both close together and so far apart.

One-Man Campaign

(By Special Correspondent)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Jefferson Poland, a white student who has been denied readmission to school and jailed for his pro-integration activities, won't give up. He is now carrying on a one-man campaign to integrate bus station facilities throughout the South.

Poland was one of five Florida State University students fined $300 for disorderly conduct in a CORE sit-in here last spring. When the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the case this spring, he and Derek Lawler, another FSU student, spent a week in jail in protest, before agreeing to pay the fine.

Meantime, Poland had continued his activities against segregation and as a result had been denied readmission to FSU for the second semester this year. He had enrolled in San Jose State College in California and came all the way back by bus to go to jail.

On the way to California, he attempted to use Negro waiting room and restaurant facilities at Greyhound bus stations. In many places he had no trouble; in Marianna and Pensacola, Fla., he was refused service by white managers. On an earlier trip, he had been refused service in Memphis.

He has filed complaints with the Interstate Commerce Commission, citing a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision prohibiting discrimination against interstate passengers in bus stations. He has also written Attorney General Kennedy.

He asks that others join him in writing the ICC, Washington 25, D. C., demanding that it use its existing powers to force Greyhound to comply with anti-descrimination rulings.

Young Voices

A newspaper poll among white youth in Louisville found a large majority in favor of integration, and typical response summed it up this way:

"Bigotry and intolerance have been dying for generations. Our parents aren't as narrow as were their parents. Our generation of teens is an informed and intelligent one. I sincerely believe that our generation will see an end to segregation and the beginning of real democracy for all."

Meantime, also in Louisville, freshmen from Trinity High School were distributing thousands of cards to church-goers. The cards, for use in business establishments, read: "I like doing business with you. Why not let other races enjoy it too?"

Women Meet for Action

(Continued from Page 1)

transfer of their children to previously white schools, and continue efforts to improve communication among all parts of the community.

In the workshop on building WILPF in the South, problems encountered by individuals in their own communities were shared with the group. Participants agreed that there is a growing interest among Southern women, Negro and white, in the major aims of WILPF—peace and freedom.

The achievements of the student movement have been influential in stimulating this new interest. With each victory there is added encouragement for the thoughtful Southern person to take a stand and join in the fight for equality.

The desegregation of public facilities workshop heard a discussion by a panel of six students from Negro and white colleges in Atlanta. They emphasized that the struggle against discrimination should not be sharply divided into student activity and adult activity. The community should consider itself as one body fighting for a common cause.

In the legislative workshop and also in the plenary session which followed, activities of WILPF at the United Nations were discussed. In its UN activities, WILPF recognizes the parallel between the struggle of these peoples and our struggle here in the South.

In the concluding address Dr. Orlie Pell, National President of WILPF, said: "War and social injustice are the two greatest evils of our time." In our fight against discrimination, she continued, we are actually part of a world-wide struggle for the rights of man.

Individuals in all parts of the country who wish to demonstrate for peace, said Dr. Pell, could hardly do better than to learn the techniques of non-violence from the students and others in the South who are using this method so effectively.

As the conference came to a close, there were still many excited discussions. In the words of one participant, "There was a feeling of determination in the temper of this meeting—a sense of things moving."

Alabama Leaders Face Economic Ruin

(Continued from Page 1)

deprive them of their civil rights. Federal District Court in Montgomery dismissed this complaint, but it is being appealed.

Meantime, trial of the libel suits continues. Police Commissioner L. B. Sullivan was awarded $500,000 judgment in the first trial; Mayor Earl James, $500,000 in the second; the suit by Commissioner Frank Parks was scheduled for early May.

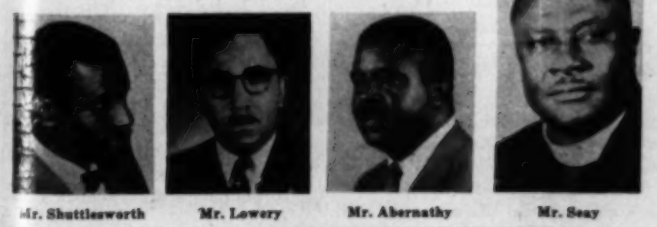
When the James case was tried, the mayor as well as many other officials, including some of the all-white jurors, showed up in court wearing beards. They—and many other Montgomery citizens—were in the midst of celebrating the Civil War Centennial with cerebronies glorifying the Old Confederacy.

Alabama law requires that a bond twice the amount of the judgments be posted to halt collection of judgments pending appeal. This was out of the question for the ministers; therefore, although the cases are being appealed, attachment of their property began immediately.

None of the ministers had much in the way of worldly goods, for all had worked long, hard years out of dedication to their beliefs and not for personal gain. But what they had has been taken.

Automobiles belonging to Mr. Lowery, Mr. Abernathy, and Mr. Shuttlesworth were seized and sold at public auction. Mr. Abernathy owned one-twelfth interest in a farm in the Alabama Black Belt, which his sharecropper parents worked all their lives to buy for their children; his part was sold.

A piece of property in Montgomery, in which Mr. Seay owned half-interest, was scheduled for sale in late April. In addition, Mr. Seay, who does business as a farmer, reports that this year he is unable to get any credit for crops.



Mr. Shuttlesworth — Mr. Lowery — Mr. Abernathy — Mr. Seay

ALABAMA LEADERS: NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT

Supporters in Alabama have rallied around the ministers as best they can. Friends join forces to provide transportation for the Abernathys and their children. But if the judgments are upheld by the higher courts, all of the ministers face the knowledge that they cannot accumulate any material things for years to come.

But perhaps because their interest is in the welfare of their fellowman rather than material things for themselves, each of the ministers has met this persecution with a renewed determination to continue the struggle for equality.

Mr. Abernathy, who was one of the leaders of the Montgomery bus protest and is now president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, said:

"This has made my family and me more determined than ever to carry on the struggle for our democratic ideals and freedom. We have lost our material possessions, but we have our health and our faith, and we will not give up."

Mr. Lowery, who heads the Alabama Civic Affairs Association in Mobile, declared: "We are determined to continue the struggle for justice for all, in spite of this and any other persecution."

Mr. Seay, who was until recently executive secretary of the Montgomery Improvement Association, said: "Whatever disadvantages I suffer, I count it a part of the price I must pay for my part in the struggle for a better way of life for the forgotten people in this country and around the world."

And Mr. Shuttlesworth, who leads the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in Birmingham, stated: "We expect these intimidations, but we know we are right, and we are prepared to lose all that we might gain freedom for our people."

Share the Loss

If you would like to share the losses that have come to the four Alabama ministers and also help them pay the tremendous costs of carrying these important cases to the higher courts, you can do so through the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which has set up a special fund to help them. All four ministers are leaders in the SCLC. Send contributions designated for Alabama Libel Suits to SCLC, 208 Auburn Ave., N.E., Atlanta 3, Ga.